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SECRETARY KISSINGER ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

ANNCR:VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES A NEWS INTERVIEW, RELEASED ON MONDAY, WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER:

VOICE: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IS NOT ONLY AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT FORD; HE IS ALSO A CONTROVERSIAL ONE. HIS IDEAS ON THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY, AND EVEN HIS STYLE, HAVE BECOME ISSUES IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN. CONSEQUENTLY, HIS APPEARANCE ON A NATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAM-- AT THE HEIGHT OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION CAMPAIGN-- WAS WATCHED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST.

THE PART OF THE INTERVIEW WHICH MADE IMMEDIATE HEADLINES WAS HIS REMARK THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE HIS JOB AS SECRETARY OF STATE NEXT YEAR, EVEN IF PRESIDENT FORD WERE TO BE RE-ELECTED. HE SAID THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO TIE THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY TO HIMSELF PERSONALLY. IF A FOREIGN POLICY IS WELL- DESIGNED, HE SAID, THEN IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE CARRIED OUT BY MANY PEOPLE. MR. KISSINGER, HOWEVER, DID NOT SAY FLATLY THAT HE WOULD QUIT-- SOMETHING THAT HIS CRITICS HAVE FREQUENTLY SUGGESTED. AND HE DEVOTED MOST OF THE INTERVIEW TO REBUTTING ACCUSATIONS THEY HAVE MADE ABOUT VARIOUS ISSUES OF FOREIGN POLICY.

ON THE PANAMA CANAL, FOR INSTANCE-- WHICH PRESIDENT FORD'S CHIEF REPUBLICEN OPPONENT, RONALD REAGAN, HAS TRIED TO MAKE A LEADING ISSUE-- MR. KISSINGER POINTED OUT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH

THE PANAMANIANS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CANAL ARE NOTHING NEW. THEY HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR TWELVE YEARS, HE SAID, UNDER THREE DIFFERENT PRESIDENTS-- ALL OF WHOM SAW THE NEED TO GUARANTEE SAFE PASSAGE OF CANAL SHIPPING WITHOUT ALIENATING ALL OF LATIN-AMERICA. IF NECESSARY, HE SAID, THE UNITED STATES WILL DEFEND THE CANAL-- BUT PRESIDENT FORD'S POSITION IS THAT IF THAT EVER DID BECOME NECESSARY HE WOULD WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT EVERY EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO GET A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

SECRETARY KISSINGER ALSO REFERRED TO CRITICISM THAT HIS RECENT TRIP TO AFRICA WAS BADLY TIMED-- CRITICISM WHICH HAS COME FROM MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY WHO ARGUED THAT HIS STAND ON RHODESIA LOST VOTES IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS IN THE SOUTHERN STATES. MR. KISSINGER'S REPLY WAS THAT CABINET MEMBERS AND POLITICAL ADVISORS HAD BEEN BRIEFED IN ADVANCE, THAT NONE OF THEM HAD RAISED ANY OBJECTIONS, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD APPROVED EVERY PROPOSAL HE MADE DURING THE AFRICAN TRIP. ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA, HE REPLIED THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DANGER IS IMMINENT. HOWEVER, HE TOOK THE OCCASION TO WARN ONCE AGAIN THAT OUTSIDE MILITARY ADVENTURES IN AFRICA WOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY BY THE UNITED STATES.

ASKED ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ONCE THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON DIES DOWN IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO REGAIN THE MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE. AND ON VIETNAM HE RESTATED THE AMERICAN POSITION THAT AN ACCOUNTING OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IS A PRECONDITION TO ANY FURTHER DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES. THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES FOR ECONOMIC AND OTHER ASSISTANCE WITHOUT ACCOUNTING FOR THE MISSING AMERICANS-- SOMETHING WHICH MR. KISSINGER DESCRIBED AS " BLACKMAIL."

IN SHORT, SECRETARY KISSINGER TOOK THE OCCASION OF THE INTERVIEW TO GIVE A CAPSULE SUMMARY OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON SEVERAL SENSITIVE FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. AND WITH FOREIGN POLICY BECOMING AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT HE WILL BE DOING THIS MORE OR LESS REGULARLY. MR. KISSINGER MAY BE CONTEMPLATING LEAVING OFFICE NEXT YEAR-BUT AS LONG AS HE IS SECRETARY OF STATE ONE MAY EXPECT A VIGOROUS AND ARTICULATE DEFENSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN POLICY.

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